



seawa

South East Alberta Watershed Alliance

www.seawa.ca

Three-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2022

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1. Introduction

The South East Alberta Watershed Alliance (SEAWA) is one of the eleven Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) in Alberta. SEAWA is a multi-stakeholder, volunteer-based, not-for-profit society, incorporated in 2008 and designated as a WPAC by the Government of Alberta in 2010. For more information, please visit www.seawa.ca.

The Government of Alberta, through Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) partners with WPACs to help achieve the three goals of the provincial policy, Water for Life - Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability. The three goals are: (1) Healthy aquatic ecosystems, (2) Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy, and (3) Safe, secure drinking water.

The SEAWA watershed includes the South Saskatchewan River Sub-Basin within Alberta, and the closed-drainage system Pakowki Lake watershed (**Figure 1**). Their areas are 14,765 and 5,164 sq. km, respectively, with a total area of 19,929 square kilometers. The total population is around 70,000 people, mostly concentrated in the urban centres of City of Medicine Hat and the Town of Redcliff. Land use is predominantly agriculture. The SEAWA watershed belongs to the semi-arid grasslands natural region of Alberta, and the South Saskatchewan Region under the Land Use Framework.

As a WPAC, SEAWA is expected to do collaborative work in the following areas of activity: (1) Watershed evaluation and reporting; (2) Watershed management planning; (3) Education and outreach; and (4) Environmental stewardship.

SEAWA watershed initiatives are guided by its Mission and Vision, Water for Life goals, WPAC program areas, and the Implementation Recommendations in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP). SEAWA does not have a State of the Watershed Report nor an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP).

There are 17 seats on the board (**Table 1**). In addition, the Past Chair is a voting member of the board and the Executive Committee. There are currently four active committees: Executive/Human Resources Committee, Communications Committee, Technical Committee and Policy Committee.

There are three staff positions: Executive Director, Stewardship Facilitator, Communications & Office Facilitator, in addition to a summer student or students. Filled positions are variable depending on available operational and project funding.

Vision

A healthy watershed that provides balance between social, environmental, and economic benefits.

Mission

SEAWA brings together diverse partners to educate the public, to support knowledge development, and to develop and facilitate the implementation of management plans for the sustainable use of the South Saskatchewan River Sub-Basin and the Pakowki Lake watershed.

Key Stakeholders

Key local stakeholders include: City of Medicine Hat, Town of Redcliff, Cypress County, County of Forty-Mile, County of Warner, Saint Mary River Irrigation District, Medicine Hat College, and Grasslands Naturalists.

Board

SEAWA is governed by an elected Board with a total of 17 seats, shared among 9 membership categories (Table 1).

Table 1 SEAWA Board Membership Category and Number of Seats

Membership category	No. of Seats
Land Resource Industry	
Agriculture	1
Industry	1
Licensee member	
Irrigator	1
Non-irrigator	1
Municipal government	
Urban	2
Rural	2
Outdoor Recreation & Eco-tourism	1
Environmental Non-Government Organization	1
Regulatory Members	
Provincial	2
Federal	1
Members-at-large	2
Aboriginal	1
Academic Institutions	1

2. Goals

To achieve SEAWA's Vision and Mission, the SEAWA Board established six three-year goals for the period 2019-2022. There are five activity or project goals (Goals 1 – 5), and an operational goal (**Table 2**).

Table 2 The Six SEAWA Strategic Goals

Watershed Evaluation & Reporting	
Goal 1	The SEAWA watershed is assessed, and watershed knowledge is developed.
Watershed Management Planning	
Goal 2	SEAWA watershed management plans are developed.
Education and Outreach	
Goal 3	Community engagement is maintained or enhanced, and stakeholders gain knowledge of watershed health.
Environmental Stewardship	
Goal 4	Environmental stewardship projects or initiatives are implemented.
SSRP Implementation Recommendations	
Goal 5	SEAWA assists in the implementation of the recommendations of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP).
Operational Goal	
Goal 6	SEAWA attains sustainable funding, and improved organizational capacity.

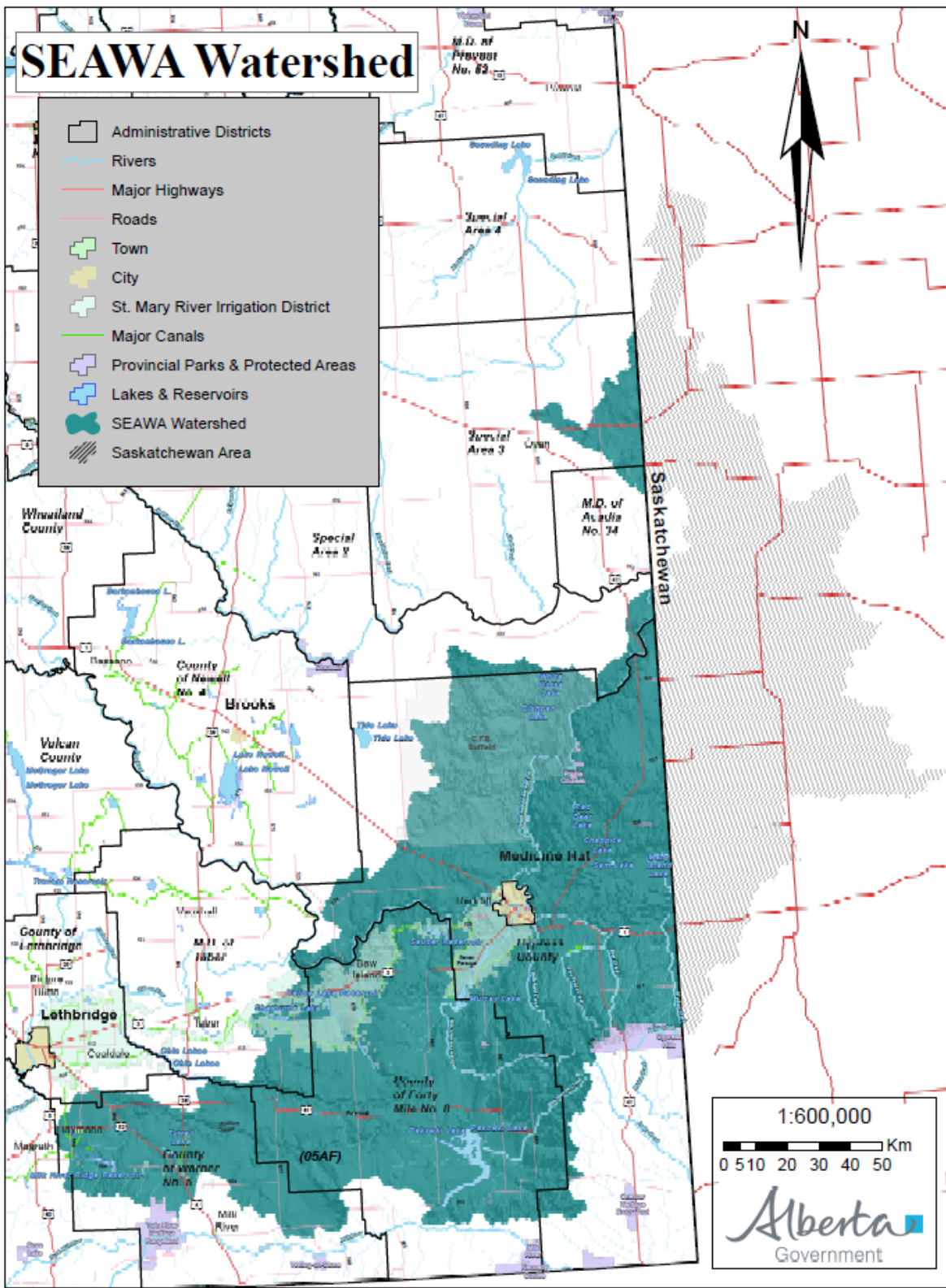


Figure 1 Map of SEAWA watershed with administrative boundaries, and the area within the province of Saskatchewan

3. Objectives

Key objectives to achieve the six SEAWA Goals along with responsibilities of staff, board and committees for implementation, are shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3 Main Objectives to achieve each of the SEAWA Strategic Goals, and Who is/are responsible for implementation

Watershed evaluation and reporting		
Goals	Objectives	Responsible party
Goal 1. The SEAWA watershed is assessed, and watershed knowledge is developed.	Resources are generated or acquired; Apply for grants to federal, provincial, and municipal governments, and other funding programs that support studies about the SEAWA watershed; Implement the approved study.	Executive Director Stewardship Facilitator Technical Committee Executive Committee Board.
Watershed management planning		
Goal 2. Watershed management plans are developed.	Resources are generated or acquired; Write proposals for specific watershed management planning projects that are recommended in the SSRP (e.g., Source Water Protection Planning), for grant application to AEP; Have initial conversations, write letters, and hold follow-up meetings with potential partners and AEP staff. Implement the approved project.	Executive Director Stewardship Facilitator Technical Committee Executive Committee Board.
Education and Outreach		
Goal 3. Community engagement is maintained or enhanced, and stakeholders gain knowledge of watershed health	<i>Focus A: Key Stakeholder relations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen links with, and commitment from, key stakeholders, partners, networks, and regional jurisdictional agencies; • Establish and build partnerships with agencies and industries not currently engaged; • Engage sectors represented on the SEAWA Board of Directors and on SEAWA Committees. 	Executive Director Communications & Office Facilitator Stewardship Facilitator Technical Committee Communications Committee Executive Committee Board.

	<p><i>Focus B: Increasing Impact</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate SEAWA watershed and regional issues (urban and rural) to stakeholders and the public; • Build relationships with upstream and downstream, water, watershed, and environmental stewardship networks; • Promote awareness of provincial initiatives, SEAWA's role in watershed management planning, and SEAWA projects. 	<p>Executive Director Communications & Office Facilitator Stewardship Facilitator Technical Committee Communications Committee Executive Committee Board.</p>
	<p><i>Focus C: Public Outreach</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement education and outreach activities; • Continue to engage both rural and urban residents through previously established activities and additional outreach events; • Educate the public about Water for Life goals, water quality, quantity, & conservation; healthy watersheds & ecosystems; watershed issues, and environmental stewardship • Educate the public about the results of watershed studies and environmental stewardship projects. 	<p>Executive Director Communications & Office Facilitator Stewardship Facilitator Technical Committee Communications Committee Executive Committee Board.</p>
Environmental Stewardship		
<p>Goal 4 Environmental stewardship projects or initiatives are implemented.</p>	<p>Resources are generated or acquired;</p> <p>Apply for grants to federal, provincial, and municipal governments, and other funding sources to support environmental stewardship initiatives.</p> <p>Implement the approved project.</p>	<p>Executive Director Stewardship Facilitator Technical Committee Communications Committee Executive Committee Board.</p>
Implementation of Recommendations of the SSRP		
<p>Goal 5. SEAWA's role in the implementation of the SSRP is established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to AEP/GoA invitation for participation, collaboration and feedback in a timely manner; • Identify collaborative projects with stakeholders (e.g., Source Water Protection Plan); 	<p>Executive Director Stewardship Facilitator Technical Committee</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage provincial and federal government, and other funding sources to implement SSRP recommendations. 	
Operational Goal		
Goal 6. SEAWA attains sustainable funding, and improved organizational capacity.	Develop and implement core business administration systems.	Executive Director Executive Committee Policy Committee Board.
	Develop and implement core organizational, operational, and governance systems.	
	Develop and implement annual operating (business) plans & budgets.	
	Develop a strategy for achieving sustainable funding.	
	Build sufficient staff capacity to achieve SEAWA Goals and Objectives.	



Figure 2 The SEAWA Board, June 13, 2019 Annual General Meeting